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Youth Commission of Cincinnati

Presentation to the Livable Communities Committee
Cincinnati City Council
April 9, 2013

Youth Commission of Cincinnati

Mission: The YCC will act as a voice for the concerns of the youth within the City of Cincinnati, advise the Mayor and City Council on the needs of youth within the City of Cincinnati, and guide city leaders on decisions relating to youth concerns.

Goals and Objectives:

- Commission a study on the state of youth in Cincinnati. The study should review factors impacting our youth including: crime; poverty and homelessness; education, literacy, and college readiness; employment and workforce development; health; and developmental opportunities.

- Evaluate current policies and laws impacting our youth, and provide recommendations or potential changes to the Mayor and City Council.

- Evaluate resources, programs, and services provided to our youth and conduct an impact analysis.

- Investigate methods and tools to promote the positive initiatives and programs involving and affecting youth.

Youth Commission of Cincinnati

Goals and Objectives (cont.):

- Collaborate to develop an annual awareness raising, and information gathering initiative for our youth and organizations serving our youth.

- Develop a list of priorities and recommended actions plan designed to positively impact the state of our youth.

- Evaluate the feasibility of developing a youth representative group that would provide perspective to this commission as it fulfills its goals and objectives.

- Promote the many positive initiatives and outcomes involving youth.

- Investigate the feasibility of conducting a collaborative annual project on youth (i.e., a youth advocacy conference).

YCC Members

Council Representative:
- Yvette Simpson

Co-Chairs:
- Greg Landsman (Strive Partnership)
- Dr. Monica Mitchell (Cincinnati Children's Hospital)
- Patricia Nagelkirk(United Way)

City Staff Liaisons:
- Ellen Berninger/Denisha Porter, Cincinnati Health Department
- Officer Alisha Harley, Cincinnati Police Department
- Dr. Ericka King-Betts, Cincinnati Human Relations Commission
- Nyemah Stark, Community Development Department
- Michael Thomas, Cincinnati Recreation Commission

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YCC Members (cont.)

Board Members:

- Geoffrey Hollenbach (Lighthouse Youth Services)
- Dr. CarlaJohnson (University of Cincinnati)
- Dr. Terry Joyner (Educational Resource Consultants of Ohio, Inc.)
- Ellen Katz (The Children's Home of Cincinnati)
- Jane Keller (Cincinnati Youth Collaborative)
- Shawn Kerley (Community Action Agency)
- Angela Lipscomb (Price Hill Athletic Association)
- Ayanna Love (Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division)

- Joseph Malek (Walnut Hills High School)
- Sherry Kelley Marshall (Southwest Ohio Workforce Investment Board)
- Dr. O'Dell Owens (Cincinnati State Technical and Community College)
- Dr. Rebekah Pershing (TriHealth)
- Cary Powell (CISE)
- Dorothy Smoot (Urban League)
- Moira Weir (Hamilton County Job and Family Services)
- Vanessa White (Cincinnati Public Schools)

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Overview of Cincinnati Youth

Who are our young people?[1]

- ➤ **22.1%** of all Cincinnatians are under 18 years old (65,624)
- ➤ **52.3%** are single parent households (45.1% single mother; 7.2% single father)

With ***48% of Cincinnati children living below the poverty line***,[2] the Cincinnati area has the ***third highest child poverty rating in the United States*** (behind Detroit and Cleveland).[3]

What does this mean for our children?

- Adolescents living in poverty are almost twice as likely to be obese (17% of those in poverty, 9% of non-poverty adolescents).[4]
- Teenage girls living in poverty are five times more likely to have an unintended pregnancy.[5]
- Children living in poverty are 1.3 times more likely to have developmental delays or learning disabilities.[6]
- Children living in poverty are twice as likely to repeat a grade.[7]

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Overview of Cincinnati Youth (cont.)

What does this mean for their future?

- Two-thirds of children who don't read at grade level by the end of 4th grade will either end up in jail or on welfare.[8]

- We already see the effects; Cincinnati has a lower percentage of high school graduates than both Ohio and the U.S. (83.6% in Cincinnati, compared to 87.6% in Ohio and 84.9% in the U.S).[9]

- Non-high school graduates in Cincinnati are more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line as high school graduates.[10]

- This cycle will continue if we don't do more to stop it.

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Why a Youth Study?

Youth are impacted by many factors, from the quality of their education to their mental and physical health, from their family's income level to the level of crime in their neighborhood.

- We have many organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people.
- The work of these organizations has produced advancements in several areas, including education and health.
- However, most programs and organizations focus only on one or two factors, with little coordination in addressing multiple factors impacting our youth.

The lack of strategic coordination impedes more significant and sustained progress.

- We generally understand the impact of individual factors on a child (e.g., poverty, education, or crime). However, it's critical to recognize the interrelationship of these factors.
- Even if one or two are stabilized, if other factors are not resolved the child will not experience the maximum impact of available resources.
- Example: If a young person is healthy and has access to a quality education, but is on the brink of homelessness or is impacted by crime in his community, his ability to perform well in school will be negatively impacted.

Our study will create a comprehensive understanding of the lives of Cincinnati youth, and provide systemic and community-wide recommendations that address the whole person. This approach will create a roadmap to help Cincinnati youth learn, live, and grow.

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YCC Youth Study Proposal

- *Request for Proposal:*
  - Seeking qualified vendor to complete the work
  - RFP Released April 2, 2013
  - All bids due back to City of Cincinnati May 2, 2013
  - Once vendor is selected, anticipate that the research will take approximately one year to complete
- *The study will examine the whole child and his family, and encompass six areas:*
  - Crime
  - Education
  - Health
  - Poverty and homelessness
  - Workforce development
  - Developmental opportunities

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YCC Youth Study Proposal (cont.)

- *Unique Research*
    - ➢ Currently, there is no local data on youth in Cincinnati. The closest data is regional information, and is focused primarily on health statistics only.
    - ➢ This will incorporate the voice of Cincinnati youth and families directly.
    - ➢ The data will shed light on the state of Cincinnati youth, their resource utilization, perceived quality of life, perceived gaps, and suggestions for improvement from the youth themselves, their parents/ guardians, and key stakeholders.
    - ➢ This study has the potential to be longitudinal in nature, enabling the City and its partners to see if quality of life improves for families once future action is taken.
- *Study Goal:* To create recommendations to be implemented citywide by the City and its community partners.

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Study Method and Scope

- *Overview:*
  - To be conducted by a reputable organization experienced in large-scale research studies focused on youth.
  - Will be completed in three phases, including a sophisticated research and data-based analysis measuring the gap between current needs of Cincinnati youth (age 0 – 21) and the services being provided.
  - The sample will be representative of the diversity within the city of Cincinnati and large enough to demonstrate statistically significant results, if present.

- *Phase One: Research and Benchmarking*
  - Research and data review of existing local and national data related to youth outcomes, as well as major local youth initiatives.
  - This data will serve as background information and benchmark data for the study.
  - This phase will also include benchmarking, reviewing strategies employed by comparison cities as one potential gauge of success for the Cincinnati study.

Study Method and Scope (cont.)

- *Phase Two: Surveys*
    - ➤ On-site surveys will be conducted face-to-face with parents/ guardians (500 participants minimum), youth (1500 participants minimum), and key stakeholders (people who work with youth; 30-50 organization participants).

- *Phase Three: Youth Profiles*
    - ➤ In-depth profiles of a select group of youth and families (approximately 40).
    - ➤ Subjects will be followed in great detail, with parent and youth permission.
    - ➤ Will include in-person interviews and complete record review to understand the family's resource utilization and health, academic, and behavioral functioning.

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Cincinnati Youth Survey Overview

- Crime
- Developmental Opportunities
- Health
- Poverty & Homelessness
- Education
- Employment/ Workforce Development

Youth Survey and Gap Analysis

- Research and Data Review
- Youth Profiles
- Youth and Parent Surveys
- Key Stakeholder Surveys
- Benchmarking for Progress and Success

Key Questions

- What is the state of our youth?
- How well are youth developing/progressing?
- What are current resources/services?
- How can we ensure the success of youth?

Cincinnati Youth Survey Goals

The Status of Youth in Cincinnati

- Understand Strengths and Challenges for Youth
- Assess Gaps and Needs in Existing Programs and Services
- Understand the Priorities of Youth (and parents) for what is needed to support positive youth development
- Determine Opportunities for advancing development in Cincinnati youth and ensuring progress over time (YCC Vision)

Desired Outcomes/Implications

- Identify the **factors most impacting the lives of Cincinnati youth**, and the services youth currently receive to address these factors.

- **Recommend changes to improve the quality of life** for Cincinnati youth, including educational, health, safety, and developmental outcomes, to ensure their future success.

- **Identify gaps** within current programs, and **prioritize youth resources** citywide to enable Cincinnati to become a more nurturing and constructive place for youth.

- Create recommendations to **close gaps and improve service coordination and delivery**, including recommendation on **resource allocation and prioritization**, and the total investment required to maximize impact.

- **Other outcomes and implications** will result based on study goals and quantitative and qualitative data collected.

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Questions

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10. Supra, Note 7.

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